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## THE NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION

1512 H STREET NORTHWEST

WASHINGTON, D. C.

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## NOW FOR THE ROOSEVELT-SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK

*But the Barbour Bill must be Amended so as to give the New Park the same status as other National Parks*

### UNANIMOUS FOR A POWER-PROOF PARK

#### STATEMENT OF THE SIERRA CLUB (California)

The Sierra Club, as the first proposer of the Roosevelt-Sequoia National Park, cannot support the Barbour Bill unless it is amended so as to bring the new park under the protection given by the Jones-Esch Act to existing national parks.

We must oppose the policy of two kinds of parks as wrong in principle and dangerous in practice.

Our representative in Washington is instructed to work only for a park exempt from power privilege.

WILLIAM F. BADE, President.

#### STATEMENT OF THE GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

(National Organization of 2,000,000 Members)

The policy of the General Federation of Women's Clubs is the complete conservation of the National Parks and Monuments, and all national park projects which it supports must be based on this principle. We are therefore opposed to the Barbour Bill.

The Federation strongly favored the project for a Roosevelt-Sequoia National Park before the passage of the Jones-Esch bill, but we cannot now continue our support while it is subject to the Water Power Act.

Unless the bill is amended to give full protection from the provisions of the Water Power Act we shall be compelled to do our utmost to defeat it.

MRS. JOHN D. SHERMAN,  
Chairman Department of Applied Education.

#### RESOLUTION OF THE NATIONAL PARKS COMMITTEE

(National Council of 22 Eastern and Western  
Associations.)

Resolved: That, in the opinion of this Committee, the Barbour Bill (H.R. 7452) to create the Roosevelt-Sequoia National Park should be so amended as to protect the entire area included within the park from water power developments in the same manner that all existing national parks are protected; and that this Committee favors the creation of such a park if thus protected, and opposes the establishment of any national park without such protection.

GEORGE BIRD GRINNELL, Chairman.  
JOHN B. BURNHAM, Secretary.

ON JUNE 29 last, Representative Henry Ellsworth Barbour of Fresno, California, introduced into the House a bill (H.R. 7452) to create the Roosevelt-Sequoia National Park in California. As this bill contains no clause providing that the new park shall be excepted, like all other national parks, from the authority of the Water Power Act, it will be necessary for the Public Lands Committee to amend it to this purpose.

Assuming that it will be amended, and that the amended bill will successfully pass Congress this winter, we shall have added to our National Park System an area which, for the wide variety of its forest, canyon and mountain exhibits and the impressive climaxes it contains of each kind, surely surpasses any other area of any kind in the United States. The hugest trees, the deepest and wildest valleys, the broadest sea of snow-capped peaks, and the loftiest mountains are right here. It will be literally the national park of superlatives. Perhaps the whole world of scenery crowds as many and as diversified capital features into no other single region.

As our group of National Museums of Natural America, officially known as our National Parks System, nears its natural completion, it is gratifying to add another to our very best. The Director of the National Park Service is to be congratulated on this near realization of the earliest and one of the most distinguished of his projects to complete the system which he has proportioned so nobly.

#### One of the Greatest of Parks

The area included in the boundaries of the coming Roosevelt-Sequoia National Park lies less than a hundred miles south of Yosemite National Park, and, like Yosemite, begins at the crest of the Sierra and drops westward so as to include fine examples of California's richest forest belt. It is sixty miles north and south, and thirty-eight miles wide at its widest point. It encloses eleven hundred square miles. Half of the present Sequoia National Park is enclosed within these boundaries. The lower half, containing few sequoias and no scenic features of superlative quality, will return to the National Forest.

From its beginning in Northern California where the Cascade Mountains overlap, to its emergence in the minor ranges of the South, the granite Sierra lifts a lofty wall four hundred and fifty miles in length, which detains the Pacific winds long enough to rob them of their moisture; hence the desert east of the Sierra; hence the fertility of the Sierra's western slopes. Upon these western slopes, dropping from the summit, lie the Yosemite National

Park and the coming Roosevelt-Sequoia. They are similar in kind, but Roosevelt is on a far greater scale, reproducing in magnitude every Yosemite element—except that it does not reproduce the Yosemite Valley, whose quality of sheer beauty is unapproached in all the world.

### The Sierra's Splintered Crest

The climax of the Sierra is this park's eastern boundary. From north to south, as we travel the John Muir Trail rise Striped Mountain, 13,160 feet; North Palisade, 14,254 feet; Middle Palisade, 14,049 feet; Mount Fiske, 13,328 feet; Mount Baxter, 13,118 feet; University Peak, 13,588 feet; Junction Peak, 13,903 feet; Mount Tyndall, 14,025 feet; and Mount Whitney, 14,501 feet; supporting Mount Whitney on the south is Mount Langley, 14,042 feet. These from the trail, appear little more than higher elevations in the massing of splintered peaks and granite ledges which connect them. West of this shining wall, and between its flanking bulwarks are broad treeless lake-bearing cirques, often cirque within cirque, set in silvery granite, hung with sun-capped snow garlands, and dripping with glaciers. Culmination comes with Mount Whitney, the highest summit in the United States, which lifts its head only a little above those of its gigantic neighbors.

### The High Sierra a Sea of Peaks

So much for the new park's castellated eastern boundary. West of that, ten miles or more in width, is the celebrated High Sierra, a zone of tremendous jagged peaks, of intermediate pinnacled walls, of enormous cirques enclosing remnants of once gigantic glaciers, of adorable high altitude valleys knee deep in wild flowers, of trees, picturesque forests, turquoise lakes in chains.

Only the experienced traveller in regions such as this can appreciate the magnificence of the High Sierra. It is the Alps adapted to the use and enjoyment of all. It is more than that; it is the Sierra. The least accustomed man or woman, properly guided and cared for, can use this magical land of a thousand Matterhorns with complete comfort. Between June and October he will need no tent, for it seldom rains; a sleeping bag under a mountain hemlock and a starry ceiling will suffice.

### Paradise of Pack Train and Camper

Descending rapidly westward, the zone next the High Sierra and merging indistinguishably with it affords enjoyment to a far more numerous summer population. This is the domed and bouldered country below timber-line where camping is a never ending pleasure. It is crossed by innumerable lesser ranges buttressing the High Sierra; from these cross-ranges many noble peaks arise, and between them roar trout rivers of high degree, spreading here and there into lakes of exquisite beauty.

Here are found magnificent meadows, forest bordered. Here are innumerable lesser canyons of wonderful beauty, tributary to the greater. Here, thousands of camping parties, anglers, idlers, trampers or riders of the trail can sojourn for long summers and scarcely know that others share its pleasures. From camps here, parties ascend to the High Sierra, climb its peaks and return, or follow the trails to celebrated spectacles; or explore and fish the greater canyoned rivers; or visit the monster forests of the lower levels; or do all of these, returning to their base camps, or moving camp from point to point. Changing camp without tents is trifling. But many carry tents by preference and for privacy.

### The Forest Zone

Westward again the park merges rapidly with the greater meadows and forests beyond the boundary. This is the zone, if we may call so indefinite a thing a zone, of the great valleys and the big trees. Here is the Giant Forest, with its million sequoia trees scattered among its millions of other giants; sugar pine, cedar, white fir and yellow pine, each producing the tallest and thickest examples possible of its kind.

The groves of the present Sequoia National Park will contribute to the Roosevelt-Sequoia spectacle an element even more remarkable, of its own kind, than the bristling, glaciated, cirque-hollowed Sierra summit, or than the sea of white-capped peaks called the High Sierra, or than the stupendous Kern Canyon with its lofty sculptured sides and marvellously diversified surrounding divides of massed shining granite peaks.

In fact, were there nothing of the Roosevelt-Sequoia Park but the part which is south of the Kings River, it would remain a complete scenic unit made up of masterpiece examples of its four elements; for it would include the Mount Whitney section of the Sierra summit, the best portion of the High Sierra, the unbeatable Kern River Canyon, and the Giant Forest! A perfect scenic unit!

Now add to that the great drainage basin of the Middle and South Forks of the Kings River which constitutes the upper half of the proposed reservation, and we shall have a national park great enough, when its fame spreads abroad, to bring thousands across seas to visit it.

But let us get back to the Giant Forest.

### The Court of the Big Trees

One will never forget his first glimpse of a great red sequoia among the massed ranks of gray trunks. It is a gigantic thing in comparison with its monster neighbors: it glows among their dull columns; it is clean and spotless among their moss-hung trunks; branchless it disappears in their upper foliage, hinting at steeple heights above. You are amazed. You cannot believe, realizing by comparison the size of the monster sugar pine close by. Yet, this is a modest sequoia. Its stem is only twelve feet or less in diameter. There are others twice as thick!

You wander whole days in this marvelous forest. You find sequoias, singly and in groups, in hundreds, thousands; yes, in many thousands if you count the youngsters. Though you spend weeks in looking, you never will outlive the shock of surprise at the size of these giants. Those who have spent their lives among them tell me that they, too, never cease to wonder, not only at their size, but at their beauty, their majesty, their calm.

Government measurements give the General Sherman Tree a height of 280 feet and a ground diameter of 36.9 feet; the Abraham Lincoln Tree a height of 270 feet, and a ground diameter of 31 feet; and the William McKinley Tree a height of 291 feet and a ground diameter of 28 feet. These are the three largest trees in the park.

### The Noble Roosevelt Tree

It is possible that the most beautiful of all is the Theodore Roosevelt Tree. I searched two hours for it, and found it behind a dense thicket. It is not one of the very biggest trees, but so far as one can tell, there is none more nearly perfect. Like all sequoias, it shows the marks of ancient forest fires; otherwise, I could discern no blemish of any kind, and its proportions are exceptionally noble.

I shall not hazard a guess at its thickness. The eye is

useless in the presence of these giants. Its age, I should guess, exceeds 2500 years.

No wonder that increasing thousands come to the Giant Forest every summer to live in the inspiring company of these calm monsters. Thousands bring their own camps and spend weeks, months here.

### Tehipite, Wonder of Canyons!

And then the great canyons!

The Kings River valleys in the upper part of the park are the bones of contention with the water power people. It was to keep these that they forced us to accept the Pierce amendment last January to the Jones-Esch Bill.

The Middle Fork contains the Tehipite Valley, the South Fork the Kings River Canyon. These correspond in kind and origin, and in a general way in size, with the Yosemite Valley. While neither of them has Yosemite's exquisite beauty, both must be classed with Yosemite as scenic spectacles. They are both deeper, more rugged, more romantic and in the writer's opinion, far more beautiful than the Hetch Hetchy Valley.

The Tehipite Valley unquestionably is one of the most striking features in American scenery; wholly lacking the Yosemite type of beauty, it is far ruggeder, more virile. It is bigger. It has power, majesty. Its walls are loftier. The Tehipite Dome, 3200 feet above the Valley floor, is one of the five greatest rocks of the scenic world, the others being El Capitan and Half Dome in the Yosemite, the Grand Sentinel in the Kings River Canyon, and El Gobernador in Zion National Park. Just for comparison's sake, the famous Rock of Gibraltar, if transferred to Tehipite Valley, would rise 700 feet less than half-way up the Tehipite Dome. The walls are correspondingly striking; on the whole they rise higher than Yosemite's. They are perpendicular and remarkably eroded. There is one place where a landslide has rolled rocks as big as houses more than halfway across the valley floor.

The floor of the valley is exceedingly rough but fascinating. It could accommodate hundreds of campers. And the river! It is times larger than the Merced. From the beginning to the end of the valley, it is a succession of cascades, swift rushes and pools. It is the finest trout river I ever fished.

Opposite Tehipite Dome, Mount Harrington rises a thousand feet higher than Cloud's Rest above Yosemite, namely seven thousand feet. From its summit cascades tumble into the Middle Fork.

The Tehipite Valley is nothing short of the most inspiring chasm in the Sierra. It ranks in its own way with the greatest American spectacles!

### Beauties of the Kings River

The big valley of the South Fork, the Kings River Canyon, is not easy to differentiate. The two are similar; their difference is of degree. Both lie east and west with enormous precipices rising on either side of rivers of quite extraordinary beauty. Both present sculptured walls of exceptional boldness of design. Both are heavily wooded. Both are far above the average of Sierra valleys.

But the Kings River Canyon outlines are softer, the valley floor broader, the river less turbulent. If the keynote of the Tehipite Valley is wild exuberance, the keynote of the Kings River Canyon is wild beauty. The one excites, the other charms.

Like Yosemite and Tehipite, the Kings River Canyon has narrow rocky gates at its outlet. It is these, in fact, that the water power companies want to dam. The great



rock of the Kings River Canyon is the Grand Sentinel, and it is right in the gates of the valley. If it is not the equal of El Capitan, Tehipite Dome and Half Dome, it does not fall much short of equality.

The Kings River Canyon is more accessible than the Tehipite Valley. Being broader and flatter, it will accommodate far more pleasure seekers. In fact there is a prosperous camp there now, with a regular horse-back service to the General Grant National Park.

Such is the coming Roosevelt-Sequoia National Park. It is destined to become as celebrated, and as justly celebrated, as any national park in the United States; in the years, as any area of equal size anywhere in the world.

### But it Must be Power-Proof

But, for its own sake and the sake of the whole national park system, Roosevelt-Sequoia National Park must come into the system with precisely the same status as the other national parks. The Pierce amendment to the Jones-Esch Bill of last January showed us that water power interests planned then that it should be under the control of the Water Power Act when it should enter the system.

Having passed the Jones-Esch bill last winter and thereby rescued existing national parks from water power, this nation certainly will not defeat its purposes by allowing new water-power parks to be created now or hereafter.

A restatement of several recent events will help us to get this otherwise puzzling situation into perspective.

### The Necessary Historic Background

In order to comprehend the situation created by the Barbour bill, it must be recalled that, after the Water Power Act had been sent to President Wilson for signature late in June, 1919, it was discovered that it included national parks and monuments among those public reservations which it turned over to the Water Power Commission with authority to grant power rights. Conservationists rose in quick protest. The President postponed signing, but did sign the bill after John Barton Payne, then Secretary of the Interior, had secured Senator Wesley L. Jones' promise to introduce a bill at the next session to withdraw national parks and monuments from the authority of the Water Power Act and return them to the sole jurisdiction of Congress.

### The Effort to Recover Them

In December, 1920, Senator Jones introduced this new bill in the Senate and Representative Esch introduced it in the House. The Department of the Interior heartily backed it and public spirited organizations with combined memberships of four million voters got stalwartly behind it. A vigorous and successful national campaign followed.

### Water Power Interests Save Out Future Parks

On January 6, 1921, Henry J. Pierce of Seattle, Washington, representing water power interests including five far western companies which he named, appeared before a House committee and proposed amending the bill so that it should apply only to existing national parks and monuments. It was intimated that water power interests would kill the bill unless his amendment was accepted. As it became apparent that they were powerful enough to carry out this threat, Secretary Payne did not fight the amendment lest he should fail to rescue the whole existing system from water-power.

The Jones-Esch bill, thus amended, passed in the closing days of February, and one of President Wilson's last acts, late at night on March 3, was its signing. Thus was our existing national parks system saved from the Water Power Act, but all national parks hereafter to be created were left to its mercy.

### Water Power Strategy

In the course of this campaign, the reason became clear why the water-power interests insisted on the Pierce amendment. It was because, above all things, they desired access to the still unparked waters of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, particularly the Middle and South Forks of the Kings River. Fearing to lose all, they were willing to trade us back, so to speak, all our existing national parks provided they could make sure of these particular waters.

Besides, once they should get a new national park created under the Water Power Act, it would be only a question of time when this precedent would enable them to work back into the old parks which the Jones-Esch bill had saved.

### Fighting Over the Kings Valleys

Meantime the City of Los Angeles applied to the Water Power Commission for extensive power rights in both forks of the Kings River. It asked for five large reservoirs within the limits of the proposed park. One of these would cover the entire floor of the Tehipite Valley, and another would wholly submerge the floor of the Kings River Canyon, valleys second only to Yosemite in sublimity.

The unexpected entrance of a great city into competition for these waters aroused much excitement in the districts

nearest the Sierra, and meetings were held in Fresno, Visalia, Hanford, Modesto, Porterville, Bakersfield and other San Joaquin Valley cities to protest against the "monstrous and selfish schemes" of Los Angeles, whose ambition they declared was to become "a taxless municipality" at the expense of the rest of the State. A permanent organization was effected in Fresno in April to fight "the dictator of central California," meaning Los Angeles.

Soon afterward the San Joaquin Light and Power Corporation, of Fresno, applied to the Water Power Commission for power sites on Roaring River and Bubbs Creek, just above the Kings River Canyon, but this application has been withdrawn.

### Enter: The Barbour Bill

This was the situation when Representative Barbour of Fresno introduced his bill (H. R. 7452) into the House "to add certain lands to Sequoia National Park, California, and to change the name of said park to Roosevelt-Sequoia National Park." The description may seem misleading. The Roosevelt-Sequoia National Park will have the status of a new national park, and, under the Pierce amendment to the Jones-Esch Act, will fall under the Water Power Act.

### The Public Lands Committee

The Public Lands Committee, which will handle this bill, has been the guardian of national parks inviolability since that day in December, 1870, when William H. Clagett, Congressional Delegate from the Territory of Montana, introduced the bill for the creation of Yellowstone National Park, the first of the system.

Here have sat the men whose resistance to the attempts of half a century to commercialize the national parks have saved for us today, and for posterity, this incomparable system of exhibits of Nature's untouched wilderness; which recently, by the way, has become the inspiration and the model for similar systems now building in other nations. Whether or not our irreplaceable National Museums of Native America will pass unimpaired to our children will depend in large part (for this is the crucial case) upon this Committee's action on the Barbour bill.

The members of the Public Lands Committee of the House, representing twenty states, whose privilege it is to amend the Barbour Bill, are:

Nicholas J. Sinnott, of Oregon	John E. Raker, of California
Chairman	Carl Hayden, of Arizona
Addison T. Smith, of Idaho	Robt. L. Doughton, of No. Carolina
Hays B. White, of Kansas	William W. Larsen, of Georgia
William N. Vaille, of Colorado	William J. Driver, of Arkansas
Henry E. Barbour, of California	Ross A. Collins, of Mississippi
John S. Banham, of Indiana	Lamar Jeffers, of Alabama
John W. Summers, of Washington	Dan A. Sutherland, of Alaska
Don B. Colton, of Utah	
Nestor Montoya, of New Mexico	
Olger B. Burtress, of North Dakota	
W. M. Morgan, of Ohio	
Lon A. Scott, of Tennessee	
W. J. McCormick, of Montana	
Charles L. Faust, of Missouri	

If the Public Lands Committee amends the bill so as to exempt it from the application of the Water Power Act, we can safely urge its passage.

By thus establishing this first of the new national parks safely in the same position toward water power as all the other national parks, the Public Lands Committee will make a long step toward the sound national parks policy which we all desire most of all to see formulated and recognized by Congress.

ROBERT STERLING YARD,  
Executive Secretary.

